

OPINION 2142 (Case 3251)***Thereva* Latreille, 1797 and *Phasia* Latreille, 1804 (Insecta, Diptera): usage conserved by the designation of *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Thereva***

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that usage of the names *Thereva* Latreille, 1797 for a cosmopolitan genus of stiletto flies (family THEREVIDAE) and *Phasia* Latreille, 1804 (PHASIINAE) for a group of tachinid flies (family TACHINIDAE), some of which are economically important as parasites of plant bugs (Heteroptera), are conserved by the designation of *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the genus *Thereva*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; THEREVIDAE; TACHINIDAE; *Thereva*; *Phasia*; *Thereva plebeja*; stiletto flies; tachinids.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Thereva* Latreille, 1797 are set aside and *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Thereva* Latreille, 1797 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Musca plebeja* (specific name of the type species of *Thereva* Latreille, 1797), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *Thereva* Fabricius, 1798 (a junior homonym of *Thereva* Latreille, 1797) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3251

An application to conserve the usage of the names *Thereva* Latreille, 1797 for a cosmopolitan genus of stiletto flies (family THEREVIDAE) and *Phasia* Latreille, 1804 (PHASIINAE) for a group of tachinid flies (family TACHINIDAE) by the designation of *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the genus *Thereva* was received from Kevin C. Holston (*Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, U.S.A.*), Michael E. Irwin (*Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, U.S.A.*) and F. Christian Thompson (*Systematic Entomology Laboratory, PSI, BARC, ARS, USDA, clo Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) on 23 July 2002. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 60: 198–202 (September 2003). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A comment opposing the application was published in BZN 61: 254–255.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2005 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 60: 201. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2005 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Calder, Fortey, Halliday, Kerzhner, Lamas, Macpherson, Mahnert, Minelli, Ng, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys and van Tol.

Negative votes – 3: Mawatari, Nielsen and Song.

Voting for, Alonso-Zarazaga commented: 'I consider that there is no need for the Commission to use its plenary power for the designation of a type species for *Thereva* Latreille, 1797, since there is already a subsequent designation of *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758 by Latreille (1810, p. 421) as stated in para. 5 of the original application. The plenary power should be used only when there is a real need of it, otherwise we impair its significance. On the other hand, I consider that the problem of Fabrician altered usages of generic names proposed by other authors under the principle of his authority (the 'Prince of Entomology') should be addressed by the Commission once and for all. Considering them available junior homonyms could be the best procedure, in my opinion'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

plebeja, *Musca*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 589.

Thereva Latreille, 1797, *Précis des caractères génériques des insectes, déposés dans un ordre naturel par le Citoyen Latreille*, p. 168.

Thereva Fabricius, 1798, *Supplementum entomologiae systematicae*, p. 549.